

Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.

State Superintendent of Schools

BILL: House Bill 823 **DATE:** February 12, 2021

SUBJECT: Public Schools - Mathematics **COMMITTEE:** Ways and Means

Credit - College Preparatory Computer Science or Computer

Programming Course

POSITION: Information Only

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EXPLANATION:

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) is providing information for consideration regarding (HB 823 – Public Schools - Mathematics Credit - College Preparatory Computer Science or Computer Programming Course), which allows public high school students to satisfy one mathematics credit by completing a computer science or computer programing course selected by a local board of education.

MSDE currently allows computer science courses to fulfill graduation requirements for mathematics, technology education, and career and technical education. COMAR Sec. 13A.04.12.01, Programs in Mathematics, allows local school systems to accept several mathematics-related courses, including AP Computer Science and a non-AP Computer Science course, to meet graduation credit and enrollment requirements. If a student takes a computer science course to fulfill a mathematics credit, then the same course cannot be used to fulfill the technology education or CTE graduation credit. It should also be noted that the University System of Maryland accepts AP Computer Science as one of four required mathematics courses for admission, but not the final course.

The Maryland State Board of Education approved permission to publish amendments to regulation 13A.04.01 at its January 25, 2021 meeting. The proposed amendments are the result of the recommendations of the Maryland High School Graduation Task Force. The newly proposed amendments change the language from "Technology Education" to "Computer Science, Engineering and Technology Education" thus placing added emphasis on the need for students to engage in instruction related to Computer Science in order to be well prepared for post high school endeavors.

MSDE is committed to supporting the implementation of computer science education. Computer science standards have been developed, curriculum and supporting resources have been implemented, professional learning opportunities for teachers have been provided, and graduation credit options have already been established. We respectfully request that you consider this information as you deliberate **HB 823**. For further information, please contact Zachary Hands, at 410-767-0504, or <u>Zachary.hands1@maryland.gov</u>.